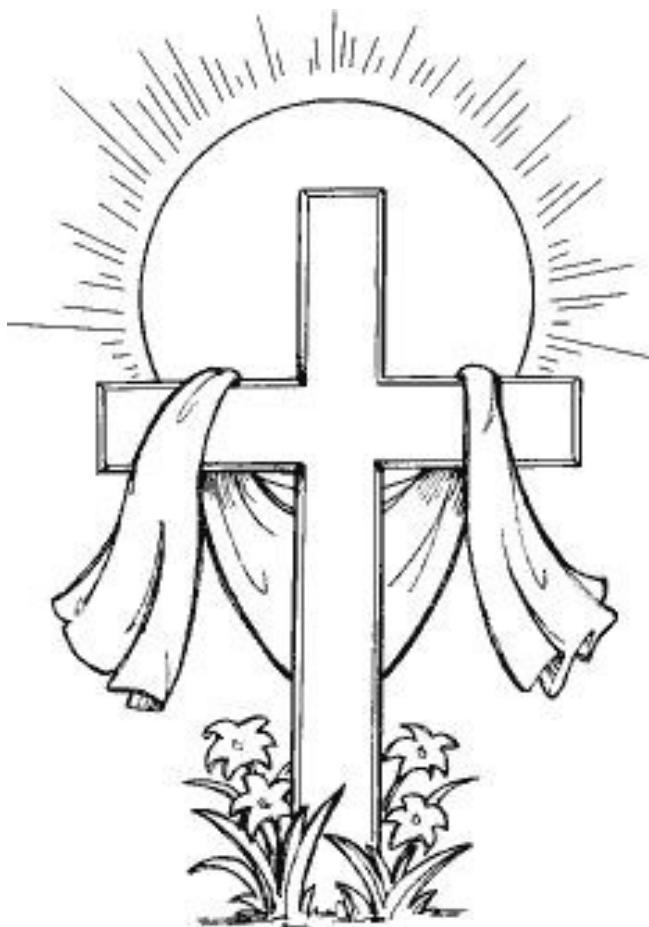


THE
OUTLOOK

MARCH TO MAY
2024



Emmanuel Church Sidcup
Methodist and United Reformed

Message From the Minister

As we enter Lent, it is worth remembering the significance of this time in the Christian year. We are in the 40 days leading up to Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection. While the ancient Church and the Middle Ages saw Lent as a time of fasting and penitence, the Protestant tradition sees it more as a time of meditation and reflection. Today, only a small minority of Christians are really aware of this tradition. In a way, by setting aside a time in the year to reflect deeply on our lives, our society and our faith, we also show that it is important for reflection to be part of our lives in general - not just 40 days a year.

We live in a fast-moving world. Not only do things change quickly, but these changes tend to accelerate. The problem with this speed is that it probably leaves no time for reflection. When we browse social networks, we find short video content that has only a few seconds to appeal to us so that we watch it in full. If they succeed, they can get their message across. However, it is doubtful whether their message will make us grow, become freer or better. It's more likely that they want to sell us something or influence our opinions. In any case, this runs counter to real reflection, precious time for ourselves to question ourselves deeply and find peace. This deep reflection is more easily achieved by reading a poetic or philosophical text, listening to a lecture or a speech in which a thought has time to develop and a series of arguments are presented without interruption. We then have time to form our own ideas and integrate a thought into our personal history. This concentrated, attentive reflection is a remedy for the hustle and bustle of the world. It undoubtedly calms the anxiety from which many of us suffer.

The Gospel of Mark tells us that "Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him" (Mk 1:13). We do not know if Jesus took scrolls of the Bible with him to read during this time in the wilderness. He certainly knew all the Psalms by heart and must have meditated on the history of his people, thinking that "they are like sheep without a shepherd" (Mt 9:13). We can do the same: open our Bible and read a Psalm, our favourite or any other Psalm. Surely there is one that suits our mood.

And now, in this Lent of 2024, as every year, we can every week on Wednesday at 12noon share a lunch with others and listen to a Lenten reflection at Christchurch, Main Road Sidcup.

I wish you and your families all the best for this Lent and Easter.

Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal

LENT LUNCHES

at Christchurch, Main Road, Sidcup.

Every Wednesday 21st Feb - 20th March 12-1.30

All are welcome.

No payment but donations for Christian Aid.

Emmanuel Church are providing / serving lunches on 13th March so we would be grateful for offers to make and serve soup etc.

Please contact the Elders if you can help.

Pastorate Update

What a joy to share the Christmas Day service with the three Pastorate Churches as well as with Rodolphe's family from France.

The retiring collection which amounted to £243.30 was, together with the money we had collected in December at Emmanuel, donated to Crisis, in all £500.

Peter and I attended the recent Pastorate meeting on February 5th. News of each Church was shared and Rodolphe gave his report. Future plans were discussed for the pastorate at Easter.

Maundy Thursday will be at Geddes Place 7.30 for 7.45 pm. The preacher will be Rodolphe.

Easter Sunday will have an Easter breakfast at Bexley URC at 8.30 am.

All are welcome to both events.

There will be a Walk of witness in Sidcup starting from St Johns on Good Friday.

A Pastorate Day for reflection, with Rodolphe, is planned for Saturday June 8th. This is primarily for all the Pastorate Elders but Church members will also be welcome to join. This will be held at Albany Park Church hall from 10.00am.

Everyone I spoke to after the Pastorate meal at Sophie's Choice had enjoyed the event. Hopefully, as it seems to have become an annual event, we can look forward to a repeat next year. Thank you Paul for organising it.

It is also hoped to organise a sponsored walk for Christian Aid later.

Judith

International Trefoil Guiding (Topaz)

In October I attended an International selection weekend for Trefoil members (adult guiders) in Luton. The advert said do you want to make a difference, explore another culture, expand and share your passion for Trefoil? Trefoil are helping in 3 countries at the moment. Lesotho, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Fifteen of us from around the country attended and I was selected for the TOPAZ THAILAND project in 2024 (year 2 of the project). The five of us selected will be building on the work which started in November 2023 in the first year of the partnership between the UK and Thailand.

I will be going for two weeks in October / November this year to a rural community in the north. The aim is to introduce guiding and training into local communities outside the school environment. We may be delivering training and activity sessions, working in health clinics for the community, doing some construction work eg building fences to maintain security, whilst educating about Trefoil and the benefits of having an adult only programme. Engaging with the whole community not just children. The exact targets for this year will be clearer after the evaluation of the 2023 programme.

The fundraising budget I will be working to is between £2,600 -£3,000 for the two-week project.

To this end I will be fundraising, eg selling cakes / running a quiz night / having an afternoon tea. Please support me where you can.

Maggie Williams

INTERNATIONAL TREFOIL GUIDING (TOPAZ)

My total fundraising is now set at £2500.

As part of the fundraising I am holding a

QUIZ NIGHT

27 April

in Emmanuel Church Hall.

Cost £6.00 per head. Teams - **maximum of 8.**

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles

– no alcohol to drink as this is a Methodist hall.

There will be a raffle so bring extra monies please.

Hope to see you there.

Maggie

Good Friday Walk of Witness

As usual the Good Friday Walk of Witness will take place in Sidcup on March 29th.

It will start from St Johns at 9.30am with several stops along the High Street and finish on the green opposite Christchurch, who will provide refreshments..

Easter Sunday prayer

O Lord, How amazing is your love,
A love that overcomes, endures and redeems.
How astounding is your life,
A life that sustains, heals and creates.
How awesome is your hope,
A hope that promises, restores and inspires.
How absorbing is your truth,
A truth that releases, changes and rebuilds.

How we worship you, as we remember the
moment when your love conquered.
When out of the cave of sorrow Jesus arose to
release forgiveness to the world.
And each time we encounter this resurrection
day we are again lifted to an eternal place.
Our sin, brokenness and darkness fall away and
your light and peace flood our lives.
How we thank you for this incredible celebration
we call Easter.

Amen.



Services for March

1	11.00am	World Day of Prayer	Sidcup Baptist
3	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	
10	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	Mothering Sunday
17	10.30am	Mr Paul Ayliffe	
24	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	
28	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday	Geddes Place
29	9.30am	Good Friday Walk of Witness	Start at St Johns
31	8.30am	Easter Breakfast	Bexley URC BST starts
31	10.30am	Elders	Easter Sunday

Services for April

7	10.30am		
14	10.30am	Mr Tony Ball	
21	10.30am	Mr John Twidale	St Georges day Parade
28	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	

Services for May

5	10.30am	Rev Rodolfe Blanchard-Kowal	Communion.
12	10.30am	Mrs Val Loader	
19	10.30am	Mr Alan Kienlen	
26	10.30am	Mr Martin Leonard	

Friday Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.00am to Noon. Come in for a coffee & biscuit and have a chat with friends. On fine days there may also be a bric-a-brac stall outside. All for church funds.



Sunday Coffee

Coffee will continue to be served in the church after morning service every Sunday.

Donations to Church Funds



ROTA

Mar	3	Pat & Marion	Apr	21	Judith & Maddie
	10	Judith & Maddie		28	Ethel and Maureen
	17	Ethel and Maureen	May	5	Ann and Maryia
	24	Ann and Maryia		12	Pam & Jennifer
	31	Roger & Christine		19	Pat & Marion
Apr	7	Pam & Jennifer		26	Roger & Christine
	14	Pat & Marion			



Mothering Sunday

10th March

On this special day would you like to remember your mother by placing flowers and her photograph on a window sill in the Church?

Carol Singing in Tudor Court for Action for Children Friday 1st December

6th Sidcup Brownies and 4th Sidcup Guides have traditionally been, the first Friday in December, to Tudor Court sheltered accommodation to celebrate Christmas with them. This stopped whilst there were Covid restrictions in place. This Christmas we were invited back for the first time since restrictions were stopped.

Nineteen residents attended. Brownies and guides brought mince pies and raffle prizes. The weight of a Christmas cake was guessed, quizzes were completed. Carols were sung. The story of the nativity was read.

We raised £170.75 for Action for Children in the two hours between 7 and 9pm. The uneaten mince pies went to the church for the Christmas coffee morning and refreshment after street carol singing. Everyone appeared to have enjoyed themselves.

Maggie Williams 4th Sidcup Guides



Carol Singing in the Neighbourhood

On 19th December it had rained all day and we were hoping it would ease off before 7 o'clock, the time we had agreed to meet so that we could go carol singing in the streets around our Church. Our prayers were answered, the rain stopped and 12 members, all in good voice, enthusiastically set off down Birkbeck Road for the first time since Covid lockdown to sing Christmas Carols.

What a wonderful evening we had as singers and what a wonderful reception we received from the people who enjoyed listening. It was delightful to see children getting ready for bedtime watching from their windows. It seemed to me that people were enjoying seeing Carol singers again and reliving years gone by. We got so many compliments and lots of claps. Most of all the weather had been kind to us!

After a couple of hours as we came to the end of Clarence Road we made our way to Peter and Maddie's home for mince pies and coffee. The collection boxes were emptied to reveal a total of £260 to be donated to Action for Children. We were very grateful to Maggie and Tony who had knocked on all the doors with their collecting boxes and to Maddie and Peter for their hospitality at the end of the evening.

Judith



We received the following (edited) letter from Action for Children

Thank you for your recent donation of £260.00 on the 25/01/2024.

In 2021-22 we helped over 671,000 children, young people and their families. Our frontline workers were on the ground helping children and families

through 447 services in local communities across the UK, in schools and online. Your support means that we can continue to build on these results to help more children.

As a charity that has been supporting the most vulnerable children in society for over 150 years, we have always been required to change with the times. We also have a responsibility to use our best efforts to keep our costs down, to ensure that as much of the money we receive can be spent on those in need.

Yours sincerely,
Linden Lance
Supporter Services Officer

Christmas Charity Collections

The Christmas day collection from the Pastorate service, the money from December coffee mornings, the Christmas Card Tree donations and other kind donations amounted to £500, which was sent to Crisis, our Christmas charity.

To the Small Celandine



Pansies, lillies, kingcups, daisies,
Let them live upon their praises;
Long as there's a sun that sets,
Primroses will have their glory,
Long as there are violets,
They will have a place in story:
There is a flower that shall be mine,
'T is the little Celandine.

William Wordsworth

This was William Wordsworth's favourite Spring flower. It is one of the first flowers to appear in spring, with heart shaped glossy green leaves and bright yellow flowers which open in the sun and close when it gets dark.

Judith

A Network of Knitters and Others

For the 14th World Day of Prayer International Committee meeting in Edinburgh, a group of ladies in Scotland had the idea of knitting prayer squares for each of the delegates. This idea came originally from a prayer shawl group who had previously knitted prayer squares at the request of the Army, who asked for small squares to be knitted and sent to Afghanistan. The soldiers were delighted that someone at home was praying for them and many of them put them in their helmets.

So, all around Scotland, WDP ladies knitted and the response was that more than 5,000 prayer squares were produced. Each square had the following prayer pinned on:

This was made by a Scottish lady who prayed for you.

May this prayer square remind you

That in your sleeping and waking

Both in the day and in the night

God will be with you.

The above was taken from an article from

‘World Day of Prayer – Together in Prayer’ 2022.

But in 2022 the WDP International Conference, which was due to be held in Edinburgh, was cancelled owing to travel restrictions following Covid. Instead, they met on-line and it was decided to send the prayer squares to the delegates who would have attended. Gwen, an Elder at Sutton Welsh Chapel, received a prayer square with the written prayer inside a presentation box. Soon after, she met up with her neighbour Kay, and knowing she was a great knitter gave her the pattern.

Little did Gwen know that Kay was going to knit 148 squares, which of course she gave to Gwen!



This is where I got involved and with the help of my daughter, Heather, and good friend Gloria, we sorted, stitched and crocheted until two small blankets were finally completed. Many ladies were involved, from the meeting in Edinburgh when the idea was put forward, until Gwen gave me the 148 squares, and then we were involved too. Job done!

Ethel Evans

New Minister for a New Circuit

Assuming that the creation of the new Bromley Orpington and Chislehurst Circuit is approved, a new minister will be joining the Circuit in September.

This is the Most Reverend Hannah Caroline Faal-Heim, who has just celebrated the end of her ten years tenure as the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church, The Gambia.

After beginning her career by teaching in the Gambia, she moved to Great Britain where she became a nurse and a midwife. Later she taught midwifery in London. During one of her return visits to the Gambia she became convinced of her call to the ministry.

After some thirteen years experience in lay ministry, and further training in theology, she finished her preparatory work with an MA in pastoral theology, while continuing to minister in various parishes in the UK.

She served in the UK as a Circuit Minister for fourteen years before returning to The Gambia as the first female Bishop in West Africa.

She will be working across the joint circuit but with particular care for Chislehurst, Mottingham and Freeman Ghanaian Methodist Churches.



Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Liturgical Date	First Reading	Psalms
03 Mar	3rd Sun in Lent	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19
10 Mar	4th Sun in Lent	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
17 Mar	5th Sun in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
24 Mar	6th Sun in Lent	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16
28 Mar	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
29 Mar	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22
31 Mar	Resurrection of the Lord	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
07 Apr	2nd Sun of Easter	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
14 Apr	3rd Sun of Easter	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
21 Apr	4th Sun of Easter	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23
28 Apr	5th Sun of Easter	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31
05 May	6th Sun of Easter	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98
12 May	7th Sun of Easter	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1
19 May	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
26 May	1st Sun after Pentecost	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29

The full Lectionary can be accessed on line at
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/index.php>
 Make sure you select the correct year (A, B or C)

Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Date	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
03 Mar	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
10 Mar	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
17 Mar	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
24 Mar	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
28 Mar	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
29 Mar	Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
31 Mar	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
07 Apr	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
14 Apr	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
21 Apr	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
28 Apr	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
05 May	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
12 May	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
19 May	Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
26 May	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

Lullingstone Tree Acrostic

Commemorating Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 2022

A few weeks ago Judith and I went with our dog Martha for a walk that we have done many times above Lullingstone Roman Villa. We came upon a row of young trees. There was a new and attractive information sign which I have transcribed below.



Eynsford Parish Council planted 13 trees in an acrostic, spelling out SAVE THE PLANET, in March 2023. The project was instigated by Tree Warden John Gee.

What is an Acrostic?

A Poem or puzzle in which the first (or last) letters spell a word or sentence.

What is Arbor Day?

Arbor day started in 1872 in Nebraska when a settler had suggested large-scale tree planting to cover the treeless plains of the state. By the end of the century similar days were observed in most of the states in America. Elliott Downs Till brought Arbor Day to the UK, initially to Eynsford, in 1897.

Eynsford Parish Council are proud to keep this association with Elliott Downs Till and Arbor Day going with a new acrostic to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

Who was Elliott Downs Till?

Elliott Downs Till (1835 - 1917) was a colourful resident of Eynsford. On moving to Eynsford around 1882 he became involved in many local activities, his enthusiasm for his adoptive village is apparent from his own words "I am so deeply pledged to other schemes for the protection and improvements of Eynsford".

There are many reminders of Elliott Down Till's benevolence to the village of Eynsford - the restored church clock, the village hall and the lychgate in his memory, but perhaps his most valuable legacy is Arbor Day.

Eynsford is a village whose people are deeply interested in trees. This love of trees, which Till first fostered, still continues and, although some of Till's trees have been felled to make way for improvements over time, many new plantings have been made.

The first Arbor Day in Eynsford commemorated the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. A tree acrostic was planted on the bank of the old school at Bower Lane spelling MY SON BE WISE (maple, yew, sycamore, oak etc). In subsequent years further acrostics were planted in the village. For example, in 1904 an acrostic spelling THE BEST IS YET TO BE. THE LAST OF LIFE FOR WHICH THE FIRST WAS MADE was planted along the west side of Station Road.

Information from (Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society publication 2006).

The trees in the new acrostic we saw are:-

- | | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 1 | Sycamore | (Acer pseudoplatanus) |
| 2 | Alder | (Alnus rubra) |
| 3 | Variegated Maple | (Acer platanoides Drummondii - Norway maple) |
| 4 | Eucalyptus | (Eucalyptus niphophila - Snow gum tree) |
| 5 | Tulip tree | (Liriodendron tulipifera) |
| 6 | Hop Hornbeam | (Ostrya carpinifolia - European hop hornbeam) |
| 7 | Elm | (Ulmus glabra - Wych Elm) |
| 8 | Plane | Platanus orientalis - Oriental Plane) |
| 9 | Lime | (Tilia x europaea) |
| 10 | Acer | (Acer greseum – Maple) |
| 11 | southern Beech | (N ^o rthofagus antartica) |
| 12 | English Oak | (Quercus robur) |
| 13 | Thuja | (Thuja orientalis - Chinese Thuja) |

contd

Some of the trees chosen for the acrostic have a special significance for the village of Eynsford:

- 1 Long term replacement for the Sycamore tree (the 'chicken tree'), that was planted by the Hart-Dyke family in 1871, to allow future continuity.
- 4 In recognition of the Hart Dyke National collection of Eucalyptus in the Walled Garden, Lullingstone, and rising global temperatures.
- 6 In recognition of the hops that were once grown extensively in the Darent Valley.
- 7 In recognition of all the Common Elm trees that were lost in the 1970s due to Dutch Elm disease, and also to replicate the witch elm planted at the front of the entrance to the village hall.
- 8 A tree that will collect pollution from the air and store it in its bark, as a consequence of increased vehicular and air traffic in the surrounding area.
- 13 A tree of remembrance to all those who have worked on the front line and suffered or lost their lives due to Covid 19 .

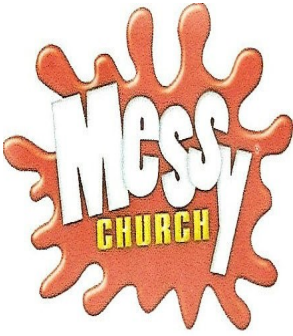
Tony

Food Bank Report 6 February 2024

Thank you to everyone who donates. It is very much appreciated by the Food Bank and the people who find themselves in a very difficult situation.

Their Current Needs Are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Cleaning Products including washing up liquid. * | Noodles * |
| Small packets of washing Powder. * | Razors Men** |
| Deodorants Men *& Women* | Coffee |
| Shampoo* | Tea** |
| Bars of soap* | Biscuits |
| Porridge | Jam, chocolate spread, peanut butter * |
| Meat in tins* | Potatoes in tins or mash |
| Tins of Fish* | Female Hygiene products Tampons* |
| Long life milk** | Nappies size 6 or 7 |
| Fruit in tins* | Tinned Spaghetti * |
| Vegetables in tins & Tomatoes** | Squash to dilute ** |
| Ready to eat Custard & Rice Puddings* | Toothpaste * |
| Fruit Juice in Cartons (Long Life) * | * means they have low stocks |
| Toilet Rolls ** | ** out of stock |
| Kitchen Rolls | |
| Small packets of sugar ** | They currently have plenty of:
of beans, pasta and cereals |



Emmanuel Church is excited to bring to the Church again Messy Church!

March 9th 4.00 to 5.30pm
Spring

The subject for the last Messy Church was Winter. 21 children enjoyed some exciting craft activities all related to the season. A large frieze reflecting winter activities was popular, using lollipop sticks and pipe cleaners to make skiers on the mountain slopes, A banner of winter weather scenes was made to hang in the church. Disposable cups were turned into penguins. Polar bear biscuits were great fun to make and delicious to eat!

After a story about the 'Stilling of the storm ' everyone enjoyed a warm meal of jacket potatoes with baked beans and cheese, followed by a piece of cake and some fruit.

It had been a very happy afternoon for the children and I felt the parents had enjoyed sharing Messy Church too! Thank you to all who had planned the programme as well as to all who had come along to lend a helping hand.

More volunteers would be gratefully welcomed. It is so important that Emmanuel's mission is taken out into the community through Messy Church.

Judith



Water Aid Lent Appeal 2024

Across the world, our climate is changing at an alarming rate, and it's making it even harder for people to get clean water. Drought, floods and extreme weather damage water supplies and spread disease. Every day, fragile water supplies are at greater risk of disappearing completely.

The poorest, most marginalized communities are impacted the most, paying the price for a crisis largely caused by others. When extreme weather hits, they are least able to prepare or protect themselves, and are often forced to turn to unsafe water sources.

Shama's story

"We left our home at night when the flood water was about to reach us. We only just managed to bring some of our belongings with us."

When devastating floods swept through their village in Badin, 20-year-old Shama, her husband and her three-year-old daughter were forced to flee their home. Now they live in a relief camp where there is no clean water and no toilets. To get drinking water, Shama must walk several kilometres. She has no option but to wash herself and her daughter in filthy floodwater, which gives them painful rashes.

"I must wash my clothes, utensils and even my body in the floodwater. This has caused me, my husband and my daughter to get an intense infection which hurts a lot."

To make matters worse, there are no toilets at the camp. Shama must go in the open, which can cause many deadly diseases to spread. She tries to wait until dark, but won't go alone for fear of snakes, scorpions and frogs.

Here are just some of the solutions your congregation can make possible:

Elevated water points

In flood-prone areas, we help communities build hand pumps on elevated platforms. These tap into uncontaminated groundwater deep in the ground.

Local water experts

In places where drought is a real threat, we help communities monitor water levels and put early warning systems in place so they can prepare for shortages

Elevated toilets

We help families build toilets on elevated plinths. Waste goes into sealed chambers that can be emptied, or into septic tanks buried beneath the ground.

Deeper boreholes

When rains fail, communities need clean water they can rely on. We work with them to dig deeper boreholes that rely on

Rainwater harvesting

We help people collect and store rainwater to use in times of scarcity. Families

can use guttering and pipes to channel rainwater from flat, clean surfaces into a storage tank

Emmanuel's Water Aid Appeal

During Lent I will be collecting any donations for this wonderful charity which helps so many people.

We are so lucky to get our water at the turn of our taps (just think how many times a day we use them).

Maybe you could think of giving up something, (like a cup of coffee or chocolate bar / biscuits) and pop that change into a jar, it quickly mounts up and every penny really counts.

Thank you so much for any donation that you can make. I will collect the money at the end of Lent and send it off on your behalf.

Pat George

Rochester Sweeps Festival (May Day)

Saturday 4 to Monday 6 May 2024

The modern day Sweeps Festival is a colourful mix of music, dancing and entertainment with more than 60 Morris sides and entertainers celebrating throughout the three-day festival. The festival was revived in 1981 by local businessman Gordon Newton, a keen historian. He decided it was time to bring it back and over the years he has helped develop the festival into what it is today – an extravaganza of traditional Britain.

Medway's annual Sweeps Festival recreates the joy and laughter enjoyed by the chimney sweeps from 4th to 6th May (May Day); the one time of the year the sweeps could leave the soot behind and have some fun. Their fun included the Jack-in-the-Green ceremony, a seven-foot character that they used to waken at dawn on Blue Bell Hill, Chatham. The Jack-in-the-Green would walk with the chimney sweeps in their parade.

When the Climbing Boys' Act 1868 made it illegal to employ young boys to carry out the trade, the traditional procession gradually began to fade. The final May celebration was held in the early 1900s.

The Sweeps Festival is special because the centre of Rochester truly opens its arms and embraces the three-day event. You don't have to know much about Morris dancing to enjoy the festival because it has more than enough atmosphere to go round.

If you have never been, this is well worth visiting.

Tony

Church Family News

Congratulations to Morgan and Daisy Rees on their wedding on September 30th 2023 at the village Church in Buxted, East Sussex. Angharad's young daughter, Zara, was a bridesmaid at the wedding. Recently the couple returned from a honeymoon in South America, visiting Chile Peru and Argentina. Our best wishes go to Morgan and Daisy for their future happiness together.



It was lovely to see Rodolphe's family from France at Christmas.

Eileen Taylor was admitted to hospital following a fall but is now home again. Audrey Fish sounded cheerful when I phoned her. Her daughter takes her out and she hopes to come to a Friday coffee morning.

Katherine and Gordon send their good wishes from Dorset.

Marion Parfit and Pat Brace continue to attend various medical appointments. Marion's son recently had a stroke but is slowly beginning to improve.

Mandy is continuing treatment and still keeps cheerful.

Remember those who find it difficult to get to church regularly. Olive Lewis, George Smith, Doreen Still and Eileen Taylor.

Our prayers and thoughts continue to be with Freda Skinner and Elaine Smith in their care homes. Freda celebrated her 95th birthday at the end of December with her family.

Judith

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is an annual event across the United Kingdom, a door-to-door fundraising drive takes place by the Christian Aid charity. Thousands of people take to the streets to post red collection envelopes to houses up and down the country.

In 2024, Christian Aid Week will take place from **12th to 18th May**.

Christian Aid is a charity who work with 700 local organisations in around 50 countries in the world. We work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

We aim to end poverty and injustice worldwide by focusing on seven key areas – see below. This involves working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

Our work includes helping people to:

- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

Emmanuel does not have the resources to participate in the door to door collection as we used to, so if you wish to donate please use the internet and go to:-

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>
or by phoning **020 7523 2046**

Cradle Roll

Henry Clement will be 4 on May 8th
Happy birthday Henry !



OUR BOOK OF
REMEMBRANCE

MARCH

Hilda Morton-Hooper	1947
Charles Harrall	1959
Nigel Stuart Pont	1978
George Francis Fox	1981
Alice Annie Wilson	1984
Ada May Rippon	1984
Arthur Kenneth Mould	1984
Norman Fedrick	1985
Cecil Hastings Grimes	1988
Colin Liddicoat	1989
Lucy Irene Selvey	1991
Edith Clarke	1993
Peter Blades	1994
Eleanor Lilian Baker	1994
Marjorie May Gaunt	1994
Lily Sexton	1995
William Godfrey Howsam	2007
Ida Ramsey	2009
Bryn Williams	2011

APRIL

Percival Nathanielsz	1961
Gertrude Agnes Gennard	1973
Marjorie Jessie Verinder	1980
William Hutchinson	1986
James Herbert May	1986
Laura Ellen Barker	1988
Sydney Craford Barker	1988

MAY

John Stevenson Lawson Oswald	1981
Dorothea Pearl	1987
Alfred Sleeman Barnes	1989
Greville Millward	1989
Hubert Samuel Clarke	1993
Kathleen Carter	1994
Harry Cecil Parker	1998
Doreen Thompson	2000
Peter Geoffrey Hopkins	2007
Ethel Parker	2009

Book of Remembrance

After Easter, the Remembrance Book will be taken to Leatherhead, to the calligraphers who created our Remembrance book, in order to have another entry added.

If anyone would like to add a name at the same time, please let an Elder know before Easter.

If you look at the book you will see that entries are in various forms, sometimes plain text, sometimes with illuminated capitals or even with floral emblems.

Obviously there will be a charge, which will depend on your exact requirements.

Please Note

The closing date for copy for the **June / July / August** Outlook will be
Thursday 18th May

Earlier contributions will be welcomed.

Please plan ahead and make sure that I am aware of any events or meetings that need to be included on the calendar.

If you can write anything that might interest others, please do so and send it to me for publication.

There is no charge for the magazine, but donations help with the cost of paper and ink and postal charges.

Please feel free to take a copy for a friend or neighbour who might like to hear about what goes on at Emmanuel.

Tony Howard

Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com



FERRIER OPERATIC SOCIETY

Lerner and Lowe's

MY FAIR LADY

23 TO 25 May 2024

at Bob Hope Theatre, Eltham

at 7.30pm

with Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm

All tickets £17

Early bird discount to £15 on

Thursday 23rd May

if booked before 1st May

To book

020 8850 3702 (Tue to Sat, 10am -1pm)

www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk

Weekday Activities

Monday	9.30 - 11.00am 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Toddler's Play Group 3 rd Sidcup Beavers 3 rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3 rd Sidcup Scouts
Thursday	10. 00am	Ladies Morning Club
Friday	10.00am—noon 4.45pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning 6 th Sidcup Rainbows 6 th Sidcup Brownies 4 th Sidcup Guides



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